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January 10, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

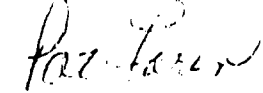
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

After three long years of court battles, Microsoft and the government have settled an antitrust lawsuit that has profound implications for all software publishers, the rest of the Information Technology industry and consumers. The settlement they came up with is more than fair and reasonable, and was arrived at after extensive negotiations with a court-appointed mediator.

Under the agreement, computer manufacturers were granted new rights to configure system with access to various Windows features. Microsoft must design future versions of Windows to make it easier to install non-Microsoft software and to disclose information about certain internal interfaces in Windows. The government created an ongoing technical oversight committee to review Microsoft software codes and books, and to test Microsoft compliance to ensure that Microsoft abides by the agreement.

Microsoft made many more compromises that will significantly benefit its rivals. Further federal litigation against Microsoft would be considered by many as nothing more than harassment. It's time for the government to let the settlement fall in to place.

Sincerely,



Pat Farin